

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-15 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 100755

R 141256ZMCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7894

INFO AMEMBASSY WYMAN

AMMEMBASSY BEIRUT 3355

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3753

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KU

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF ME SITUATION WITH MINDEF SHAIKH SA'AD

1. IN MY BRIEF MEETING WITH MINDEF SHAIKH SAAD OCT 14, HE ASKED ME FOR US ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT FIGHTING AND US VIEWS ON CONFLICT. I GAVE SAAD HIGHLY SANITIZED RUNDOWN CURRENT STATUS OF FIGHTING AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, AND EXPLAINED OUR EFFORTS ACHIEVE CEASE FIRE UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD LEAD TO START OF TALKS BETWEEN TWO SIDES. I EXPLAINED WE TRYING ACHIEVE WORKABLE CONCENSUS IN SC AND AVOID PREMATURE SURFACING OF RESOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE VETOED BY ONE PART OR ANOTHER.

2. SHAIKH SAAD SAID HE ABOUT TO SEE PRIME MINISTER AND WANTED KNOW WHETHEG OR NOT REPORT TRUE THAT USAF PHANTOM AND AMERICAN PILOT SHOT DOWN OVER SYRIA. I GAVE HIM YESTERDAY'S CATEGORICAL DENIAL BY DEPARTMENT. I ADDED GOK SHOULD TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF TWO VERY IMPORTANT PITFALLS IN CURRENT SITUATION. ONE WAS POSSIBILITY THAT

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SOVIETS MIGHT INCREASE THEIR SO FAR "MODERATE" MILITARY RESUPPLY OF SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS TO POINT WHERE US WOULD BE IMPELLED TO REACT. AND SECOND WAS DANGER OF EGYPTIAN OR SYRIANS ONCE AGAIN EMPLOYING THE "BIG LIE" OF US INVOLVEMENT ON ISRAEL'S SIDE IN CASE OF DEFEAT IN THIS WAR. THERE WAS EVIDENCE, I SAID, THAT EGYPTIANS HAD LAUNCHED DELIBERATE CAMPAIGN OF FALSE PROPAGANDA TO SHOW SUCH US INVOLVEMENT. AS I HAD INDICATED TO MINISTER OF CABINET AFFAIRS & GOK SPOKESMAN HUSSEIN (KUWAIT 371"), ARAB SWALLOWING OF THE "BIG LIE" IN WHICH HAD DONE MASSIVE DAMAGE TO ARAB CREDIBILITY OF US AND WORLD FROM WHICH ARABS HAD NOT YET RECOVERED. REPEAT OF THIS PERFORMANCE WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC -- MORE SO FOR ARABS EVEN THAN US. SAAD SAID HE WOULD PASS THESE THOUGHTS TO CABINET WHICH ABOUT TO MEET.

3. COMMENT: YESTERDAY'S PRESS CARRIED MODERATELY HELPFUL COMMENT BY HUSSEIN CONCERNING REPORTS OF US MILITARY RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL. IMPLICATION WAS THERE NOTHING NEW ABOUT US SUPPLIES TO ISRAEL WHICH TRADITIONAL AND ARE ON-GOING. STOLTZFUS

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NNN

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